

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2, 3, 8, and 11 have been amended, and claims 1, 6-7, and 14-19 have been cancelled. However, applicants submit that these claims have been canceled merely to expedite prosecution of the present application, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Applicants fully reserve the right to file additional applications to pursue the canceled claims, among other potential claims. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification as well as the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the amendment, claims 2-5 and 8-13 will be pending with claim 8 as the only independent claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

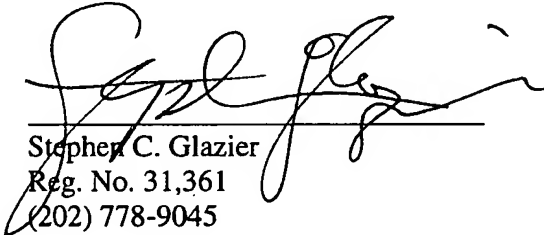
Claims 8-10 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that claims 8-10 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” Claim 8 has been “rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.”

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested in view of the above amendments. Claims 2-5 and 9-13 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence upon claim 8.

Summary

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for the pending claims of the present application. Any questions regarding the present response are invited to the attention of the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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